

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An intervertebral implant comprising a substantially cylindrical body portion having a first end and a second end and  
at least two tabs extending radially outward from the substantially cylindrical body portion, each of the at least two tabs possessing a configuration and dimensions complementing the configuration and dimensions of corresponding preformed recesses within a vertebral body, the body portion and tabs being formed from bone or material derived from bone.

2. (Previously presented) An intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the at least two tabs are radially spaced approximately 180° about the substantially cylindrical body portion from each other.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) An intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the substantially cylindrical body portion has a longitudinal axis and at least one throughbore defined in the substantially cylindrical body portion, the throughbore having a central axis which is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the substantially cylindrical body portion.

5. (Original) An intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein said substantially cylindrical body portion has a maximum diameter, and each tab of the at least two tabs has a width less than or equal to the maximum diameter of the substantially cylindrical body portion.

6. (Original) An intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein said substantially cylindrical body portion defines an installation slot in one end thereof.

7. (Original) An intervertebral implant according to claim 4, wherein said substantially cylindrical body portion defines an installation slot in one end thereof and a bore extending between the slot and the throughbore.

8. (Original) An intervertebral implant according to claim 4, wherein the at least two tabs are radially spaced from the throughbore.

9. (Original) An intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the at least two tabs include a pair of radially opposed first tabs and a pair of radially opposed second tabs.

Claims 10-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the bone or bone-derived implant comprises animal bone.

21. (Previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 20, wherein the bone or bone-derived implant comprises human bone.

22. (Previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the surface of the bone or bone-derived implant is demineralized.

23. (Original) A method of installing an intervertebral implant between adjacent vertebrae comprising the steps of:

providing an intervertebral implant having a substantially cylindrical body portion and at least two tabs extending radially from the body portion;

forming a stepped bore in a portion of two adjacent vertebrae, the stepped bore having an enlarged diameter area and a reduced diameter area;

aligning the at least two tabs with a space defined between the adjacent vertebrae;

inserting the implant into the space a sufficient distance such that the at least two tabs are positioned adjacent the enlarged diameter area of the bore; and

rotating the implant to position the tabs within the enlarged diameter area of the bore.

Claims 24-27 (Cancelled).

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the at least two tabs are radially spaced approximately 180° about the substantially cylindrical body portion from each other.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the substantially cylindrical body portion has a longitudinal axis and at least one throughbore defined in the substantially cylindrical body portion, the throughbore having a central axis which is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the substantially cylindrical body portion.

30. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said substantially cylindrical body portion has a maximum diameter, and each tab of the at least two tabs has a width less than or equal to the maximum diameter of the substantially cylindrical body portion.

31. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said substantially cylindrical body portion defines an installation slot in one end thereof.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said substantially cylindrical body portion defines an installation slot in one end thereof and a bore extending between the slot and the throughbore.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the at least two tabs are radially spaced from the throughbore.

34. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the at least two tabs include a pair of radially opposed first tabs and a pair of radially opposed second tabs.

35. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the bone or bone-derived implant comprises animal bone.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the bone or bone-derived implant

comprises human bone.

37. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the surface of the bone or bone-derived implant is demineralized.